

Inside Today

Article
Tequila Hangover:
Did it Afflict Our
Market Too?
Column: Along My Way
by SB Chaudhuri
Page 4

International
Chechen rebels set up
major resistance centres
Another Afghan
province falls to
Taliban Army
Page 5

Business
Dhaka has good
prospects for fruit
exports: Experts

China, US prepare for
last chance talks to
avoid trade war
Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET
DSE Index 811.31 (+0.73%)
Market capitalisation Tk 39.18 billion
Turnover in volume 81577
Turnover in value Tk 12.50 million

Development
The Invisible Economy:
The Role of the Informal
Sector in Poverty
Alleviation; Trade
Liberalization and Its
Impact; Digging up Sri
Lanka's Bloody Past;
Positive Predictions
for Bangladesh
Page 8

Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day

Publishers
Predicament at
Book Fair
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

**JS session may be
prorogued today**
By Staff Correspondent
The 18th session of the
fifth Parliament is likely to
be prorogued today. The session
which resumes today after a
recess of three days may adopt
a resolution today thanking the
President for his inaugural
speech on January 23.

**Habibullah Khan
HC to S Africa**
Former minister Habibullah
Khan has been appointed High
Commissioner to South Africa,
said an official announcement
in Dhaka yesterday. A Foreign
Ministry official has already left
for Pretoria to open the
Bangladesh mission in the
South African capital. Khan,
who was elected to parliament
in 1979, joined the Cabinet of
late President Ziaur Rahman as
minister for information and
broadcasting. Later he took
over the Jute Ministry, reports
UNB.

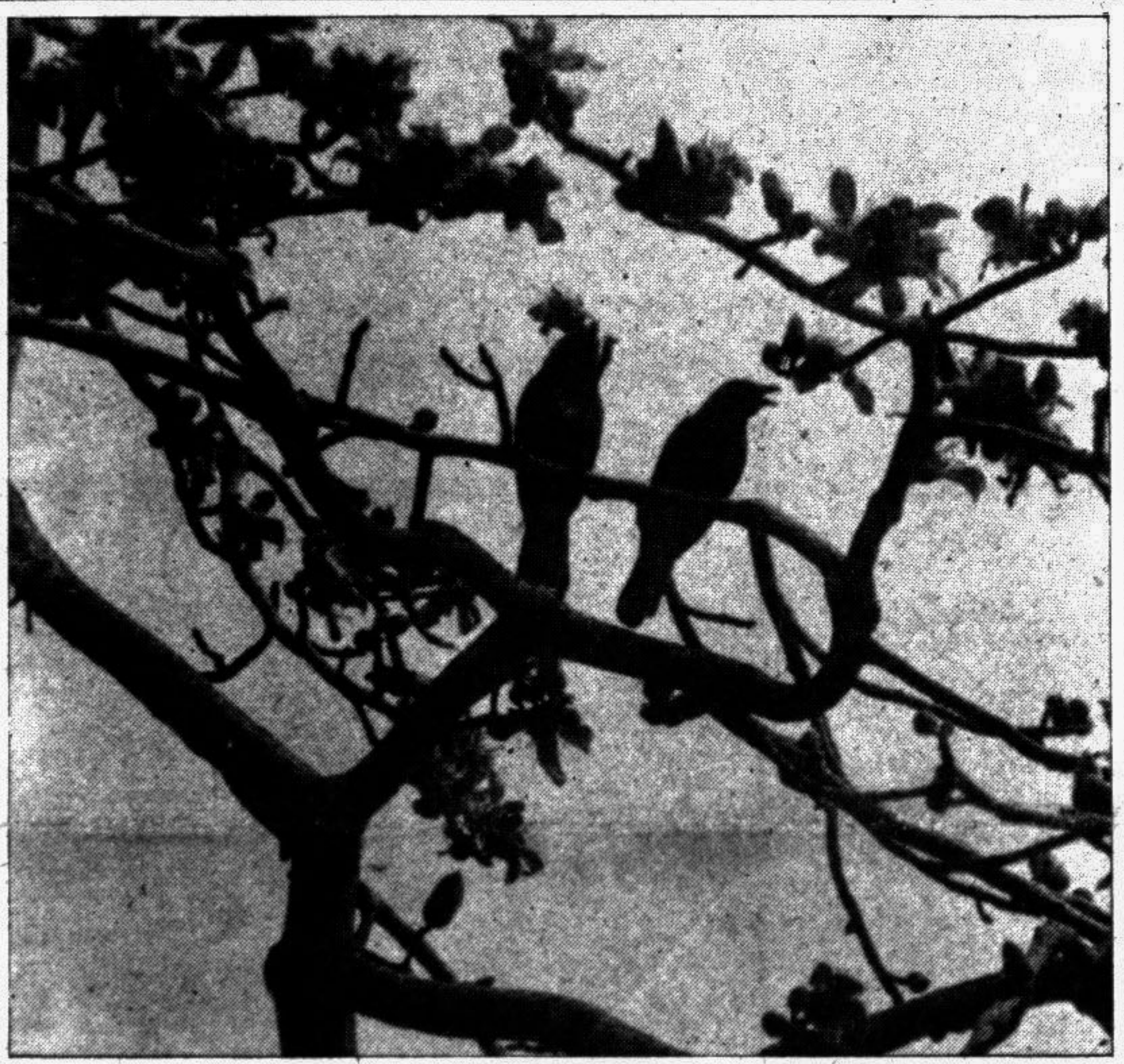
**Bangladesh Bank
official mugged**
By Staff Correspondent
An official of the Bangladesh
Bank was mugged just at the
gate of his residence at the
bank's Faridabad Staff Quarter
in the city yesterday evening.
The mugger snatched Takka
500 from the official. Parvez
Ahmed, a deputy director of
the bank, at knife point when
Ahmed was returning home
soon after the Magreb prayers.

Shri, Iftar Timings

Ram	Feb	Shri	Iftar
12	13	-	5:56
13	14	5:12	5:56
14	15	5:12	5:57

Varsity closed sine die, all exams postponed
**2 RU students killed in
Shibir-JCD gunfight**

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Feb 12: Two students were killed and over 50 injured in a gunbattle between two rival student organisations on the Rajshahi University campus today.
The RU authorities declared the university closed sine die and postponed all examinations following the clash between activists of the ruling party's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Jamaat-e-Islami backed Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS). The residents students left the campus as ordered by the authorities to vacate the halls by noon today. All activities relating to admission to the first year Honours classes have also been deferred until February 21.
Those killed were identified as Mostafizur Rahman, a second year student of Islamic History department and Ismail Hossain, a first year student of Bangla Department. Mostafiz hailed from Thanapara of Chuadanga district and Ismail from Belkuchi of Sirajganj district.
Of the injured, 27 were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) and the other were treated at different clinics and medicare centres. Doctors at the RMCH stated the condition three — Badrul, Shamim and Hirok — as critical.
The Shibir called a half-day hartal at the Rajshahi city tomorrow protesting the killing of two of its activists.
The armed clashes took place as a sequel to yesterday's dispute between the JCD and the ICS over possession of three seats at the Suhrawardy Hall.
Shibir claimed both the dead were its activists while the JCD said Mostafiz was its



SPRING IS HERE: Today is the first day of Falgun, the Bengali month that announces the departure of our all-too-brief winter. Already, the cotton-bearing pods of the shimul (silk-cotton) trees are a burning red, a refreshing sight after the dusty dreariness of winter. — Star photo

**Ministries may seek Tk 1000 cr
outside ADP at today's meet**

By Staff Correspondent
A number of ministries are seeking funds of around Tk 1000 crore in addition to the budgeted allocation of Tk 11,333 crore for the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of 1994-95. State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said yesterday.
A meeting of the National Economic Council, chaired by the Finance Minister, is scheduled for today to discuss the demand for additional allocations, he added.
Speaking at a discussion meeting on 'Problems of Project Implementation' organised by the Economic Reporters Forum (ERF), Dr Khan was critical about some of the conditionalities imposed by the donor community while acknowledging that qualitative improvement in project implementation has failed to keep pace with the recent quantitative improvements.
The initiatives for conceptualizing, identifying, formulating and implementing development projects are, at times, left with the donor community by default due to the absence of any local input, he pointed out.
Moreover, the donors also impose conditionalities aimed at redirecting some of the benefits of the aided projects to the country of origin of the funds, he said.
"The simple truth is that many of the donors do in fact try to redirect some of the benefits to their own country," the minister added. "In other cases, they impose conditionalities in which you can only get goods and services from the donor country."
Dr Khan was also critical of the proposals made by the donors relating to the appointment of foreign consultants while noting that local competent consultants could be hired for one-tenth of the costs. "There are allegations that as much as 60 to 70 per cent of the funds for aided projects go back."
The minister underlined the need to be forceful in projecting the actual needs of the country.
"I argue with the donor community that if you really want to help us then give us the handle," he said. "We have to make sure to ask and demand."
See Page 12 Col 3

**New DCCI chief unhappy over
slow pace of privatisation**

By Staff Correspondent
Rashed Maksud Khan, newly elected President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), yesterday expressed dissatisfaction at the 'slow pace of privatisation' and said it would take a few decades to privatise all the public enterprises if the government failed to speed up the process.
Khan, in his first press briefing as the DCCI chief, said the private sector has huge potentials to push the level of investment up if an enabling atmosphere is created by developing the infrastructure, simplifying the policies, removing tariff anomalies and ensuring a level-playing field.
The DCCI President said certain economic and non-economic factors in the country have been discouraging both local and foreign investments. Political instability is one of those, he said but he was optimistic this problem would no longer remain. The other problems like bureaucratic tangles, increase in the cost of production, delay in policy implementation anomalies in the tax and tariff structure and smuggling of foreign goods needs to be removed immediately, he said.
The DCCI chief announced the business community's commitment for poverty alleviation through employment generation and said, "Our first and foremost duty is to build up a resourceful Bangladesh through expansion of trade and rapid industrialisation."
He said about 30 per cent of the educated people in the country are presently unemployed.

**US team begins
probe into
state of child
labour today**

A vigilance team from the United States begins a two-day on-the-spot inspection of the state of child labour in the country's garments sector today, reports UNB.
The two-member mission's brief includes an appraisal of Dhaka's sincerity regarding the eventual elimination of child or under-aged labour from the garments factories. Possible American assistance for an in-service education programme for such labour will also hinge on a favourable report by the mission.
The delegation will meet people concerned here to discuss ways for an early elimination of child labour in the garments sector and their rehabilitation.
Details on page 6

**Nurses, employees
begin 3-day
strike today**

By Staff Correspondent
Nurses and class four employees in government hospitals of the country begin a three-day strike today to press their demand for abolishing the Centre for Management Excellence and Quality Assurance Programme (CMEQA).
Earlier on February 7 and 8, some 15000 nurses and class four employees observed a two-day strike in support of their demand.
The nurses and employees say the CMEQA will bring autonomy to government hospitals which according to them is undesirable in the present context.
The government had set up the CMEQA to improve the management and health care delivery system. It was introduced at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on January 15 on a trial basis.
During the three-day strike, emergency teams of the nurses and class four employees will attend serious patients.

**DCC to study
feasibility of five
flyovers in city**

By Krishna P Roy
The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is awaiting approval of the Planning Ministry to go for feasibility study for the construction of five flyovers in the city, said a high official of the corporation.
The cost of the study has been estimated, at Tk 5.50 crore and the amount is expected to be received from the Japanese government, the official said. The Planning Ministry would formalise the process of channelling the fund, he added.
The Ministry of Local Government, Urban Planning and Construction, Dhaka, is also expected to be involved in the project, he added.

**Several former
ministers back
Arjun Singh**

BHUBANESWAR, Feb 12: In a significant development, several former Congress (I) ministers and MLAs today pledged their support to the expelled party leader and former union minister, Arjun Singh while condemning the disciplinary action taken against him by the high command, reports PTI.
Most of them were rebel Congress (I) candidates contesting the ensuing assembly elections in the state.
The rebels, who had met here this afternoon, also set up an 11-member steering committee to chalk out their future course of action with former party MLA, Satyananda Champairay as its convener.
The meeting was attended by former ministers, Daggobinda Pradhan and Raghab Parida, former deputy speaker, Himanshu Sekhar Padhi former MLA, Kumarmani Sabar
See Page 12 Col 1

**NZ minister
due Feb 18**

By Staff Correspondent
Robin Gray, New Zealand's State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, is due to arrive in Dhaka on a day's official visit on February 18. It was learnt yesterday.
The visit, first by a New Zealand minister, is expected to focus on bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.
Robin Gray will hold talks
See Page 12 Col 6



Jute and textile mills workers damaging a bus at Kanchpur near Demra on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway on the first day of their 96-hour strike and road-rail barricade programme yesterday. — Star photo

**Jute, textile workers' strike
200 hurt in clashes with
police on first day**

By Staff Correspondent
Over 200 people were injured in clashes between police and workers of jute, textile and yarn mills in the country yesterday, the first day of four-day strike and barricade programme of the workers.
Clashes were reported from Postagola in the city, Demra and Goalunda where police fired rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse the agitating workers.
The workers of jute, textile and yarn mills, both in the public and private sectors, began a 96-hour strike in the mills and put up barricades on roads and railways.
During the barricade programme that began at 8 am and continued till 2 pm, train and bus communications were disrupted at several places. Unlike in the past, Tongi was trouble-free on the day.
The capital virtually remained cut off from other parts of the country since no inter-city bus could leave the city during the period.
Trouble erupted on the Buriganga bridge at Postagola at about 8.30 am when police intercepted a big procession of the workers of Dhaka Jute Mills in Keraniganj, sources said. Police resorted to lathicharge, lobbed teargas
cannisters and fired rubber bullets as the lathi-wielding workers attacked the police when they were halted at the north end of the bridge, the sources added.
The Pat-Bastra-Sutakal Sramik Sangram Parishad, which organised the agitation, alleged that one Basir was killed in police action and several workers were thrown into the Buriganga. Police later took away the body, it further alleged.
The Parishad also alleged local BNP activists, equipped with firearms also attacked the workers, siding with police.
Keraniganj police denied the allegations and made a counter allegation that the workers exploded scores of cocktails during the hours-long skirmishes. Hospital sources could not confirm any death report.
Police appealed to the workers over megaphone not to cross the bridge. They went into action as the workers did not respond to the police call and tried to put up barricades on Dhaka-Narayanganj road.
Our DMCH Correspondent reports : 409 injured persons were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
See Page 12 Col 1

**Country's third
satellite station,
int'l trunk
exchange opens**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said modern technology that brought about a revolutionary change in production worldwide, ought to be adopted in all fields to ensure country's economic progress, reports UNB.
"We'll be lagging behind as a nation if we fail to associate ourselves with this technology-based revolution," she observed while inaugurating the country's third Satellite Earth Station and International Trunk Exchange at Mohakhali in the city yesterday.
"We have a long way to go but not much time in hand. We must strive to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh," the Prime Minister said stressing the need for allout preparation.
See Page 12 Col 3

**PM to attend
Copenhagen
summit**

By Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to leave Dhaka on March 9 to attend and address the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen, sources said yesterday.
The UN-sponsored summit will begin at the Belta Centre of the Danish capital on March 6. It will continue until March 12. Several heads of state and government will attend the summit which is expected to formulate an action plan for alleviating poverty, increasing employment and enhancing
See Page 12 Col 6

**One killed in
N'ganj gunfight**

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Feb 12: One person was killed and at least 50 others were injured, 13 of them seriously, during a gunfight between two rival groups over occupying a re-rolling mill at Fatulla this morning.
The dead was identified as Nazrul Islam, 22, reportedly a
See Page 12 Col 2

**Hearing of writs on MPs'
resignation continues**

By Supreme Court Correspondent
The counsel for the Speaker argued yesterday that the writ was not maintainable because the petitioner was not an aggrieved person. On the other hand, another respondent asserted that the Speaker, the ruling party and the petitioner together, had conspired to withhold the effect to the en masse resignation letters of the 147 Opposition MPs.
It was a hectic day at the High Court with the three-man special bench hearing, analogously, arguments for the eighth day in the writ petitions regarding the en bloc quitting
of parliament by the Opposition MPs and the Speaker's 'delay' in disposing of their resignation letters.
During the day, Maksumul Hakim, counsel for Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, made his submissions while Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed, one of the respondents, defended himself while Abdur Razzaque, Bar at-Law, made submissions on behalf of Jamaat leader Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami, another respondent.
Moudud Ahmed told the court that the delay in giving effect to the resignation letters
See Page 12 Col 7

বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

চলতি বিলসহ বিদ্যুতের সমুদয় বকেয়া পরিশোধ করুন।
 খেলাপী বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকদের তালিকা প্রস্তুত করে তাদের বিলকে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে।
 বকেয়াধারী বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করার বিশেষ অভিযান চলছে।
 বিদ্যুৎ আইনে বিদ্যুৎ চুরি ও কারচুপি র জন্য কারাদন্ডের মেয়াদ ও শাস্তির পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি করা হয়েছে।
 বিদ্যুতের অবিবেচনামূলক ব্যবহার সনাক্তকরণ এবং যথাযথ শাস্তির ব্যবস্থা নিশ্চিত করতে 'ডিজিটেল ট্যাম' গঠন করা হয়েছে।
 ৪টি ডায়ামান আদালত বিদ্যুৎ কারচুপি ও অবিবেচনামূলক ব্যবহার-এর বিরুদ্ধে নিয়মিত অভিযান পরিচালনা করছে।
 নিয়মিত বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করে কামোনাশুভ থাকুন।
 বিদ্যুতের অবিবেচনামূলক ব্যবহার সনাক্তকরণ কোন তথ্য অথবা বিদ্যুৎ বিল সম্পর্কিত কোন অভিযোগ থাকলে স্থানীয় বিদ্যুৎ অফিস অথবা সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ এলাকার নিম্নবর্ণিত কর্মকর্তাকে জানান।

তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী	টেলিফোন	বাসভবন
গ্রাহক সেবা		
- টঙ্গী সার্কেল	৮৯৪৮২০	৬০১২৬০
- গুলশান সার্কেল	৬০৪০১৭	৮৮১৩৩৫
- মিরপুর সার্কেল	৮০৪৭০২	৮১৬৩৭৫
- সাতমসজিদ সার্কেল	৩১৩৮০৪	৬০৩৫৬১
- মতিঝিল সার্কেল	২৩৬০৭৬	৫০২৫৩৩
- পোস্তগোলা সার্কেল	২৩২৬৫১	৫০৫১৩১/৩৭১
- নরসিংদী সার্কেল	(০৬২১) ৩১৩৯	৫০৫১৩১/২৩৬

ডিক্রিপ্ট-৩২৬৬-৮/২
জি-২৪২

ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ